(b) to (d) There is a large gap between demand and supply of natural gas. In order to meet the demand of natural gas one of the options is import of natural gas in the form of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG). to attract the investment in LNG sector and to make LNG available at reasonable prices to customers, particularly Power and Fertilizer Sectors, LNG has been placed under Open General License (OGL) list with permission for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and allowed the benefit of concessional customs duty on import of capital goods on case to case basis.

Government is formulating an LNG policy which may, *inter-alia*, include fiscal concessions like status of 'declared goods' for sales tax purposes etc.

Enquiry into allotment of petrol pumps

2047. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHERJEE:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any independent inquiries, through CBI or otherwise have since been made in the light of revelations in press about the irregularities, favouritism and nepotism that came into play in the matter of allotment of petrol pumps and LP Gas dealership during 1999-2000 onwards;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the outcome and findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken against those found responsible for the irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. In consideration of the controversy that arose in July—August, 2002 through media reports and which was also raised in the Parliament during its Monsoon Session, 2002, regarding allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products to certain categories of people, the Government decided, in order to ensure fair play in action and in public interest, to cancel all allotments of retail outlet dealerships

(petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships made by the oil companies on the recommendations of the erstwhile Dealer Selection Boards since January 1, 2000. The litigations arising of these cancellations, have since been taken up by the Supreme Court of India for its consideration. Since the matter is *sub judice,* further action can be considered by the Government only after the Supreme Court delivers its final judgement.

Adulteration of petroleum products

2048. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in adulteration of petroleum products at the dealer level in the country;

(b) the number of licences or dealership cancelled in 2001-2002 by PSU oil companies after detection of adulteration of petroleum products;

(c) the names of such dealers who have lost their business;

(d) what further steps Government are taking to strengthen the existing weak and ineffective enforcement network;

(e) whether any outside agency has been hired to do the job; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir, No such specific report has been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) During the year 2001-2002, 41 number of dealerships were cancelled by PSU oil companies. Names of the such dealers are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(d) Oil Marketing Companies have adequate enforcement network to conduct surprise/regular inspections at the Companies as well as joint industry level. An Anti Adulteration Cell has also been set up by the Government to detect and curb adulteration and malpractices at the retail outlets by the dealers.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.